nate findings of the survey and to help the trade and industry for formulating trade strategy for untapped South African Market. ITPO is also organising a major exclusive Indian Exhibition namely INDEXPO-94 from 22nd to 28th August, 1994 in Johannesburg, South Africa where 157 Indian companies are exhibiting their products. Additionally more then 100 constituents of Export Promotion Councils and State of Gujarat are also participating in the exhibition. The fair is being publicised in South Africa in a big way to attract business visitors from South Africa and neighbouring countries.

(c) The companies for participation in the exhibition have been carefully selected so as to project India as a modern State and to tap the trade potential of South African developed market. Major Indian companies who represent them as producers of high-tech consumer goods/engineering items are participating in this exhibition and are expected to get extremely good business in this fair.

Compulsion behind amending Standard of Weights and Measures (Packaged Commodities) Rule, 1977

3519. SHRI S. AUSTIN: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1762 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 8th August, 1994 and state:

(a) what were the compulsions behind amending the Standard of Weights and Measures (Packaged Commodities) Rule 1977;

(b) whether public opinion was taken into account before embarking on such drastic changes; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTERS OF STATE IN THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) The Standards of Weights & Measures (Packaged Commodities) Rule, 1977 were amended to give effect to the recommendations of a Standing Committee constituted to examine, review and make suitable recommendations to the Government from time to time on changes in the provisions of the Rules and policy matters related thereto. The Ministry, while examining the recommendations of the Committee, kept in view the economic liberalisation policy of the Government and the compulsions arising out of the new packaging techniques.

(b) and (c). The Committee, has among others, representatives from consumer organisations operating in the Northern Eastern, Western and Southern regions of the country. Representation has been given to these Organisations with the object of ensuring that consumer's interests are safeguarded while formulating the recommendations.

100% BOUs in Orissa

3520. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of 100% Export Oriented Units that have been set up in different parts of Orissa and the performance thereof;

(b) whether there is a need to set up export oriented Industrial Estates in different States;

(c) whether there is a vast scope for such Industrial Estates in Orissa; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Four 100% BOUs are presently in operation in Orissa and their export performance during 1993-94 has been Rs. 15013.75 lakhs.

(b) and (d). With a view to strengthening the infrastructure for Export Production, Government has recently decided to

permit establishment of Export Processing Zones by State Governments or the private/Joint sector. In addition, a centrally sponsored Export Promotion Industrial Park Scheme has also been formulated to assist State Government in the creation of industrial infrastructure for export oriented production.

Liberalising Import of Consumer Items

3521. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to liberalise the import of consumer items and; if so, the details to the proposal;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the likely impact of such a move on indigenous industry?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) The review of Export and Import Policy is a continuing and ongoing process and changes are made therein as and when necessary.

Status of TDA and TFAI Employees After their Merger

3522. SHRI BALBIR SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the status of employees of ex-TDA and ex-TFAI has been integrated in terms of their pay-scales, allowances and designations after the merger of Trade Development Authority (TDA) and Trade Fair Authority of Indian (TFAI) on 1st January, 1992;

(b) if so, how many promotions (after the merger) have been given to ex-TFAI staff during the last two years;

(c) how many promotions (after the merger) have been given to ex-TDA staff during the last two years; and

(d) what are the norms for promotions in ITPO for both ex-TFAI and ex-TDA staff?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) In order to integrate the pay-scales, status and determine the principles of inter-se seniority and other allied issues in respect of the employees of erstwhile TDA and TFAI, a Committee was constituted after the merger of ex-TDA with ex-TFAI through the legal process effected from 1.1.1992. The officers and staff of both the erstwhile organisations are, however, continuing to be governed by their respective pay-scales, allowances and designations.

(b) During the last two years, 94 promotions have been given to ex-TFAI employees as a result of vacancies which arose during the period.

(c) No vacancy has arisen in respect of TDA employees to enable ITPO to promote junior level officers.

(d) Promotions are made on the basis of vacancies available from time to time, as per applicable recruitment and promotion rules for various posts, and based on the recommendations of the DPCs.

Division of Volume of Agricultural Exports

3523. DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 13 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 25th July, 1994 and state;

(a) how the total volume of agricultural export by India during 1993-94 was divided among Japan, rest of Asia, West Europe, USA and other countries; and

(b) what was the itemwise breakup of such exports?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). The details of country-wise exports of agricultural commodities and item-wise break up of the same are contained in the Annual number issues of the Foreign Trade Statistics of India